

THE DRUNKARD'S WIFE.

Lay her down gently
Under the snow;
Sorrow and anguish
The grave cannot know.
The lids so long swollen
Whence weeping, we close;
The weary hands—fold them
In peaceful repose.
Close by her loved ones
Whose little graves show
How early they left her.
Too frail for earth's woes.
No waiting to sorrow!
It is not a dream!
Such has crossed the dark river
And caught the bright gleam.
That light in the window
How often she sought!
Her father has found her.
Earth's weep is forgot!
Weep not for the sleeper:
But oh! weep for one
Who left her young life
From the sweet shining sun!
The Banner.

First Taste of Blood.

BY THE REV. JOHN TODD, D. D.

My young reader has read, or will yet meet with the story of the man who bought a small, very young and little leopard. It was about the size of a playful kitten, with soft, spotted and beautiful hair. Its eyes were mild and soft. No claws were grown, and its little feet were soft as velvet. It was very tame and gentle, would go to sleep in its master's bosom, jump up in his lap, play around him like a kitten, eat from his hand, and in every way show its fondness for him. No it grew up, having the range of the house, living on milk, and living chiefly in the parlor. One day the gentleman lay down on the sofa to rest, and left the leopard lying down near him. While asleep the creature began to lick his hand as it hung down from the sofa. He was awakened by a prickling pain. Well was it for him that he awoke: for the leopard had, with his rough tongue, licked through the skin, and got the first taste of blood! Before that it had been a playful pet; now, in an instant, all the ferocity of the wild beast had been awakened. The owner saw instantly, that he was no longer master. The leopard was crouched down, his eyes glaring, his tail moving, and he was just preparing to spring on him and glut that appetite for blood which had just been awakened. Not a moment must be lost. The man drew a revolver and shot the leopard dead, and thus saved his own life!

The world is full of leopards: they are not all as beautiful to the eye as the one I have been describing, but they are all as tame, and seem as harmless, till they have tasted blood, and then they spring! For example: I knew that little Ben Moore was not very respectful and kind to his mother, and I knew he was not very reverential on the Sabbath in the house of God. But I never saw that he had a leopard that was following him everywhere. But one day among the boys, at play, he let fall his first profane word! Nobody ever suspected it possible for Ben ever to become a profane boy; but, alas! the leopard had tasted blood, and now he swore and cursed because he loved to do it. He grew up a vicious, profane creature, whom every body shunned, and who made parents shudder when they saw their boys around him. Who would have thought that such a leopard would ever leap on him and destroy him! But it did!

And there was Fred Halsey! a more beautiful, sprightly and promising boy need not be sought for. He was bright and quick, and gave his father strong hopes that he would be a great comfort to him in his old age. He spared no pains to educate him, and we all thought Fred would make a noble man. We saw no tame leopard that was following him from day to day. But one evening his companions got together to enjoy themselves. They told stories, they had each a glass, they had drink. Fred drank for the first time, and the leopard tasted blood for the first time! He was carried home intoxicated, and his weeping mother and heavy-hearted father received him with tender pity, hoping it was an accident, that it would never be repeated, and that their son would be saved! In the morning Fred was humbled and ashamed, and solemnly promised that he would never again drink! But the leopard had tasted blood! From that day he was no longer a tame pet, but a wild beast. He was no longer numbered among the lost. He drank when in company and when out. There seemed to be an insatiable appetite created in the youth. He got on all self-respect, and all re-

gards for his broken-hearted parents, and all desire for character. He sank fast! The leopard lived on his very life! He became feeble in body, his brain softened, and he became a poor, worthless, helpless outcast. I suppose he is not now living, and if dead, not a human being is sorry! These temptations beset all boys. They seem as harmless as kittens; but let the boy once yield to the temptation to lie, to steal, to swear, to gamble, to drink, to go to the theatre, and the leopard is upon him! He has no revolver with which he can shoot him. Let me beg my young readers not to have any such pets, not to let any one get the taste of blood—for if he does, there will be no stopping till the soul, as well as the body, is sacrificed to his appetite, and that forever!—S. S. Times.

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